

E W P



Emergency Watershed Protection Program

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is authorized to administer the Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP) in emergency situations under Section 216 of PL 81-516, Section 403 of Title IV of the Agricultural Credit Act of 1978 of PL 95-334, and Section 382 of Title III of the 1996 Farm Bill Law 107-127.

Assistance Available

NRCS may provide financial and technical assistance for emergency watershed protection. Assistance may be available to landowners and units of government when an emergency occurs due to floods, the products of excessive runoff or erosion or other natural occurrences. A natural occurrence includes, but is not limited to, floods, fires, windstorms, earthquakes, tornadoes, and drought.

Eligible Emergency Measures

Any measure needed to provide continued watershed protection may be repaired or replaced. Protection measures that are more economically or environmentally feasible measures may be used for replacements. All measures must be economically and environmentally defensible and conform to NRCS technical standards.

Typical work in Missouri includes repair of levees and removal of sediment and debris from drainageways. More than one individual must benefit from construction or repair in order to be eligible for EWP.

Cost Sharing

Federal funds may bear up to 75 percent of the construction costs for emergency measures. The sponsors share of construction costs may be provided in the form of cash, in-kind services such as labor or equipment, or a combination of cash and in-kind services.

Eligibility

Assistance may be available to public or private landowners, land managers, land users or other who have a legal interest in or responsibility for, the values threatened by a watershed emergency. Eligible applicants must have insufficient funds or other resources available to provide relief from the emergency hazards. All applicants must be represented by a sponsor.

Sponsors

Sponsors must be a legal subdivision of a state government, the state itself, or a local unit of government. Legally recognized levee and drainage districts, as well as Soil & Water Conservation Districts and county commissions may sponsor a project. Federal agencies can also be sponsors.

Sponsors must have legal authority and agree to use the authority to obtain land rights, water rights and permits as needed. They must agree to take the responsibility for the operation and maintenance of completed emergency measures.

Cost Sharing

Where To Get Help

Contact NRCS at your local USDA Service Center if you think you may qualify for assistance through the Emergency Watershed Protection program (EWP). NRCS offices are listed in telephone directories under U.S. Government; Department of Agriculture, or contact the Missouri NRCS web site at www.mo.nrcs.usda.gov.

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